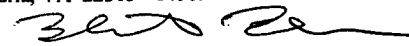


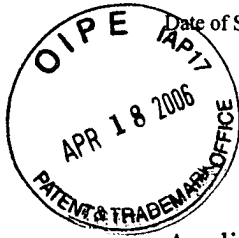
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date set forth below as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313 - 1450.

Date of Signature and Deposit: April 12, 2006



Zhibin Ren, Reg. No. 47,897

PATENT



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Keith Rowley, et al.

Date: April 12, 2006

Serial No.: 10/750,083

Group Art Unit: 3643

Filed: 12/31/2003

Examiner: Nguyen, Son

Title: METHOD FOR TREATING PLANTS AND
PLANT PARTS

File: 700798.00004

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to an office action dated March 16, 2006 in the above-identified application, which imposed a requirement for restriction on applicants, applicants provisionally elect Group I and species I for examination. Claims 3-6 read upon the elected species. Claims 1-2 and 7-38 in group I are generic with respect to the elected species. Applicants respectfully traverse the restriction requirement below.

The restriction requirement is traversed in that such requirements are optional in all cases. MPEP § 803. If the search and examination of a set of claims can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine them on the merits, even though they may arguably be directed at distinct or independent inventions. MPEP § 803. Applicants respectfully submit that groups I-IV claims are directed at highly related subject matter and thus can be examined together without serious burden. On the contrary, it will be unnecessarily burdensome on both applicants and the patent office to consider the highly related subject matter in several separate patent applications.

No extension of time is believed to be necessary and no fee is believed to be due in connection with this response. However, if any extension of time is required in this or any subsequent response, please consider this to be a petition for the appropriate extension and a request to charge the petition fee to the Deposit Account No. 17-0055. No other fee is believed to be due in connection with this response. However, if any fee is due in this or any subsequent response, please charge the fee to the same Deposit Account No. 17-0055.

Respectfully submitted,



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